

Western Canada Will be Strong

With a Good Crop this Year, It May Register the Best Position of its History, Says Sir Edmund Walker—Signs of the Times

AFTER analyzing carefully the elements, good and bad, making up the Canadian situation, who can fail to be a conservative optimist? First, the inevitable must be faced. Half our troubles are caused by kicking against what is. The inevitable includes the fact that the British Empire is at war and that sacrifices must be made. It includes the fact that Canada was due for an economic reconstruction, whether or not the war had come. It includes recognition of the fact that speculative jam is not the bread and butter of business. Having recognized these things, we are able to do business on a new plane. Exaggerated ideas of land values and rentals are disappearing; so are the abuses of credit. A better idea is being obtained of what constitutes a proper basis of credit. In short, we are getting down to real business.

War, naturally enough, affects trade, commerce, investment and business in many directions. The news from the front last week, for instance, gave a distinct check to increasing confidence and business at home. Yet we all know there can be only one result to the present struggle. None would exchange his lot with that of a citizen of an enemy country. And the confidence we have in the Empire's fight and in the nation's future, should

be spoken. It should unite with the confidence of others. Facts cannot be changed by pessimism. Good sentiment plays an important part in the maintenance of credit, of business and of faith in a young country's natural resources, its prospects and its manhood.

Money is accumulating rapidly. There is a demand for good bonds and a growing call for stocks. The chartered banks, the safety valve of Canada, are in an excellent position. They will extend credit where it is deserved. The agricultural prospects are excellent. The outlook for immigration is good. The labor situation is not bad. Canada has had little difficulty in financing its requirements. The change from the British to the United States money market was effected without trouble. Mortgage payments, both principal and interest, are good. Economy is not being carried to a foolish extreme. Manufacturers are encouraging the home demand for their goods, at the same time seeking to increase their export trade. New trade channels are being cut. Experienced farmers from the United States have already commenced again to take up lands in Western Canada. And there are numerous other factors of strength in the Canadian situation. All we need is a stronger exhibition of our latent confidence.

WEST SHOULD BE HAPPY

Sir Edmund Walker Says That, Given a Good Crop This Year, Excellent Conditions Will Prevail

If a good crop is harvested in Western Canada this year, with the good prices likely to prevail, the West may find itself in the best position of its history. This was a statement made by Sir Edmund Walker, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, in an interview granted to *The Monetary Times* last week. "The West will have a better idea of land values, of farming, of the agricultural industry generally and of legitimate credit," said Sir Edmund, "and its debt position will be better. A healthy readjustment of conditions is taking place in the West," he continued, "and with the help of a good crop this year, that section of the country should come out with flying colors, having learned some valuable things through bitter speculative experience."

Mortgage Situation Good.

Sir Edmund is pleased, too, with the Western mortgage situation. His reports indicate that even under the present trying conditions, payments of principal and interest, generally speaking, are very good. Only a comparatively small percentage of mortgage payments are in default.

That Western municipalities should do everything possible to set their houses in order, is a view strongly held by Sir Edmund, who also is in favor of a central board in each province to govern the issue of municipal securities and to supervise municipal financing generally. Sir Edmund feels that a movement in this direction would increase considerably the facilities for marketing Western municipal bonds and that the markets for these securities would be extended.

Real Estate and Gambling.

He recalled his remarks two years ago at the Royal Colonial Institute, London, regarding real estate in Canada. Then, he stated that real estate activity was not all in one class, as investors were sometimes apt to imagine. There was a legitimate real estate business and there was also a

BRITISH COLUMBIA IS ACTIVE

Some Big Export Orders—Log Production Increased Greatly This Year to Date

Improvement is noticed in the mining and lumber industries, which cannot fail to have good effect on general conditions. The Granby Company, which was less active after the war started, has blown in the last idle furnace at its Grand Forks smelter this week. Reports from Trail are that houses to rent are scarce, denoting activity in that town, the Canadian Mining and Smelting Company's smelter being located there.

On the coast the Britannia Mining Company is steadily proceeding with its enterprise, which promises to be one of the biggest operations on the continent, the ultimate plans providing a plant of such magnitude as to employ several thousand men and involve the expenditure of several million dollars.

Pulp and Paper Mills Busy.

The Hastings mill (British Columbia Mills Timber and Trading Company) are working overtime and have postponed their annual overhauling because of the rush. This company have contracts aggregating several million feet, among which is one for 2,000,000 feet of silo stock, which has been marketed in the middle states by a local firm handling timber products. If tonnage were available, conditions in the lumber industry would be still more brisk.

Log Production of British Columbia.

The log production of British Columbia for the first three months of 1915 amounted to 140,000,000 feet as compared with 86,000,000 feet for the same period of last year. Five more of the smaller logging camps are getting started. As the government still allows the export of timber, the loggers can operate to better advantage, since it is easier to dispose of at least the larger portion of their cut. When the export was allowed last August the government named no particular time, reserving the privilege of being able to prohibit export at a moment's notice whenever local conditions might warrant.